Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5576

CONFIDENTIAL MONROVIA 4963

DEPARTMENT PASS OSD/ISA

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MORG, LI

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF DEFENSE GREAVES FIRED

1. THE CHIEF OF USMM. COLONEL HORACE HUNTER, WAS INFORMED JULY 19 BY GOL MINISTER OF DEFENSE HARRY GREAVES THAT HE HAD BEEN RELIEVED OF HIS DUTIES FORTHWITH BECAUSE OF "FAILURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS" ACCORING TO GREAVES, A MISUNDERSTANDING HAD ARISEN OVER PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S WISHES CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF AN AFL HONOR GUARD AT ROBERTSFIELD TO RECEIVE THE BODY OF WILLIAM E. DENNIS, JR., FORMER GOL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY. DENNIS DIED RECENTLY IN THE U.S. WHERE HE WAS UNDERGOING MEDICAL TREATMENT. THE PRESIDENT, GREAVES SAID, HAD ORIGINALLY ASKED THAT AN HONOR GUARD BE PRESENT AT ROBERTSFIELD JULY 19 TO RECEIVE THE BODY. SUBSEQUENTLY, GREAVES UNDERSTOOD - INCORRECTLY -- THAT TOLBERT HAD DECIDED NOT TO HAVE THE HONOR GUARD AT ROBERTSFIELD BUT ONLY AT THE FUNERAL HOME. GREAVES HAD SO INSTRUCTED THE AFL. WHEN PRESIDENT TOLBERT FOUND NO HONOR HUARD AT THE AIRPORT (AND NO MINISTER OF DEFENSE EITHER), HE ORDERED THE IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL OF GREAVES.

- 2. NO SUCCESSOR HAS YET BEEN NAMED.
- 3. COMMENT: IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE TRUE CAUSES OF GREAVES' DISMISSAL LIE MUCH DEEPER. FOR SOME TIME STRONG PERSONALITY CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFLICTS HAVE BEEN APPARENT WITHIN THE MOD, PARTICULARY
BETWEEN THE MINISTER AND CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL HENRY K. JOHNSON.
BOTH HAVE TAKEN THEIR CASES TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT WHO, IT NOW
APPEARS, MIGHT HAVE TAKEN THE TOBERTSFIELD MISUNDERSTANDING AS
A CONVENIENT EXCUSE TO REMOVE THE MINISTER.
CARTER

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Message Attributes

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Subject: MINISTER OF DEFENSE GREAVES FIRED

TAGS: MORG, LI, (GREAVES, HARRY)

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